

Lieutenant Colonel Sylvia Crockett

America's 2002 IMAGE AWARD WINNER



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK



Lieutenant Colonel Sylvia Crockett is a no-nonsense role model who constantly gives back to the community.

By Master Sergeant Ben Delaney Headquarters, State Area Command

The California National Guard's own Lieutenant Colonel Sylvia Crockett, of the Office of the Adjutant General, has won the prestigious Meritorious Service Award for 2002 presented by National Image, Inc. National Image is a national Hispanic organization committed to the employment, education, and civil rights of Hispanics. Crockett was one of two National Guard members nationwide who represented the entire United States National Guard.

The award was presented in Hollywood May 22nd at the 15th Annual Salute to Hispanics in the Military. Crockett was recognized for her untiring efforts in support of the Hispanic community in California.

Crockett gave credit to others for what they do for the community and also explained that her service to the community to support the goals of equal employment opportunity and the civil rights and human rights of Hispanics was something that she feels must be done, and she is in a position with the California National Guard where she can do it.

Under the auspices of the DoD, each branch of the military annually submits two nominees, one officer and one enlisted, for the Meritorious Service Award, which is a salute to Hispanics in the military recognizing them for their contributions to equal opportunity and diversity goals through their activities in their local communities.

What I have been doing is an important part of General Monroe's policy for the California National Guard concerning equal opportunity and work in the community. When I hear of a family or someone in a desperate situation, I just start talking to people, making phone calls, and networking until I can find the resources they need and then I get it to them. Sometimes it's money, sometimes it's food," Crockett explains. "Sometimes it's airfare to help a soldier attend the funeral of a family member." Crockett makes a concerted effort to help families during Christmas time, collecting money and food for families, including toys for children.

Lieutenant Colonel Crockett possesses the impressive combination of focus, drive, education, and position. But most of all, she possesses the rare commodity of "caring" that made her a winner long before receiving the 2002 Image Award. 🐾